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BREEZE HILL NEWS

APRIL, 1941



The new, dark red Hardy Climbing Rose, F. Ferrer. (See page 3.)



HY PROPOSE to sell plants in this American near-war time? Here is the answer from America's greatest horticulturist, Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey (whose Hortus Second has just been completed at the Mount Pleasant Press). He writes a dedication for the 1941 American Rose Annual (also just completed at the Mount Pleasant Press), thus:

"The more terrible the conflicts of men the more restful, by contrast, are the quiet phenomena and objects of nature. The need for the solace of growing things is pronounced when troubles convulse the world. There is inspiration and comfort in a rose."

If he is right, each man who has good garden material, such as Breeze Hill News has been showing for years, needs to get busy, for the Nation's sake as well as his own. It is good defense work to increase garden beauty. We can help you!

J. Horace McFarland Company Harrisburg, PA.

EVERBLOOMING CLIMBERS AT BREEZE HILL

WHILE Breeze Hill is too far north for most of the true Everblooming Climbing roses, there are a few of the regulars which brighten up their particular post or arch every now and then during summer and fall.

During the hot weather of late summer there is usually an occasional bloom on Captain Thomas, Climbing Dainty Bess, Comet (Climbing Gruss an Aachen), F. Ferrer which has large, fragrant, semi-double flowers of deep blood-red (see first page), Goldener Traum (Golden Dream in this country), Mermaid, Phyllis Bide and Climbing Meteor. These varieties also put up a respectable display of flowers in the fall.

When the cooler days of September and early October come, Mercedes Gallart, which has a rather sour color in its early bloom, produces some magnificent red flowers, and, fortunately, they continue to give us pleasure right up to the first frosts. At the same time the new Captain Thomas puts on a display which is about as good as the early summer one, and the fall burst of bloom on Climbing Talisman more than pays for the trouble of wrapping it in glass wool for winter.

Although Scorcher is supposed to repeat, we rarely see a bloom on it after early summer, but another Australian, the lovely Queen of Hearts, breaks out a couple of times after the early bloom. Sanguinaire, a fairly recent Hybrid Rugosa, while not a strong climber, has given us much pleasure, when treated as a pillar, because it has two or three bright red flowers in sight almost all summer and fall. As it is also one of the hardiest, it is thoroughly desirable.

Always welcome are the few flowers which appear in late October and November on the lovely old Christine Wright. One can really depend on those late flowers.

Interesting because it is one of the few Climbing Chinas, Setina, a sport of the grand old Hermosa, does furnish an occasional November bloom and is always welcome.

Two of the most dependable of the Everblooming Climbers in this climate are Auguste Kordes and New Dawn.



THE HARMONY ROSE AT BREEZE HILL. (See page 5.)

Auguste Kordes is a sport of the well-known Polyantha Joseph Guy, which was renamed Lafayette in this country. The climbing sport was discovered by Kordes over a dozen years ago and although it has been in American commerce for several years it is rarely seen, probably because no one ever tried very hard to sell it.

Ours is a good healthy plant with ten-foot canes which cover themselves with bloom during late May and early June, andthen break out a few flowers in late summer and fall.

The semi-double flowers are quite large, bright red in color and closely resemble those of the parent.

Of great importance is the fact that Auguste Kordes is one of the hardiest climbers we have, coming through unharmed when so-called Hardy Climbers freeze back.

New Dawn is a sport of the favorite Dr. Van Fleet and while it has been as hardy here as its parent it is not nearly as strong a grower, canes rarely going over 9 or 10 feet, while a plant of Dr. Van Fleet will cover the side of a large garage.

The Breeze Hill plant of New Dawn was set out in 1931, and in addition to its pleasing first bloom there are most always a few flowers in sight with a really respectable display when frosts stop outdoor roses for the year.

One of the most cherished of our climbers is Dr. Nicolas' almost unknown Hybrid Perpetual, Harmony (see page 4), whose long canes are trained over an arch. Winter does not appear to at all bother the plant, and when in full bloom it presents an unforgettable picture. Occasional flowers appearing now and then right up to a real killing frost add to the desirability of this grand overlooked rose. Is it really a climbing Hybrid Perpetual?

THE CRAPE MYRTLE

ALTHOUGH Harrisburg is just a little too far north to grow Lagerstræmia indica (its awful botanical name), the Crape Myrtle, successfully, Breeze Hill is the proud possessor of two plants of this most decorative shrub that are at least a dozen years old, and that thrive almost as well as they usually do in Dixie. The plants are about 10 feet tall and each has 10 or 12 stems.

It would be pleasant to be able to say that they came here in 6-inch pots but they didn't; they were full-grown adults when Mr. Thrasher of the Greenbrier Farms sent them up from Norfolk, Va., in May 1937 to prove that Virginia Crape Myrtle could be grown in Pennsylvania. He instructed us not to cut them back at all. With their bur-

lapped roots each weighed over a hundred pounds when they were unloaded at Breeze Hill.

One of them, which has been a joy for four years, was planted in a protected nook on the south side of a row of old cedars, and while possibly a few tips may have been nipped by frost the plant does not seem to have suffered at all. The display of rich deep pink bloom is as good as we have seen in the favorable climate from which it came.

Although quite leggy at first, basal shoots, now 3 feet tall, have covered a great deal of the nakedness, and these new shoots furnished considerable bloom this year. A severe winter may cut these shoots down, but if this happens the base should not suffer.

The second plant was placed in a shady position and has not done so well, but does produce some bloom. The performance of these plants proves to our satisfaction that one can have Crape Myrtle in this climate by bringing in mature plants and giving them some protection from northern winter winds.

It is claimed that small plants can be used like Buddleias, cutting them back to the ground each spring, if the wood freezes, in which case they are expected to produce pleasing bloom from the current year's growth. Through the kindness of Mr. Mayhew of the Texas Nursery Co., Sherman, we have now planted six named varieties.

Crape Myrtle in pink, shell-pink, white, watermelonred, lavender and purple are catalogued. Ours is the watermelon-red, and it is very beautiful as well as a reason for pride. (See photograph of the plant on page 8.)

FUCHSIA MAGELLANICA

THIS is the "hardy Fuchsia" which seems so anomalous. Our plants came from Wayside Gardens in April of 1938, blooming that year when only 15 inches tall. That winter the plants browned badly and were cut to the ground in spring, after which they came up much stronger, making fine bushy plants about 30 inches tall on which the fall

bloom was generous. The picture on page 9 shows the group in September 1940, when the plants were again about 30 inches tall and carrying a pleasing crop of bloom.

The canes are red, with bright green, tapering, ovate foliage, I to 2 inches long. The pendulous flowers are solitary, with a red calyx and violet petals; the pistil and stamens extend some distance beyond the sepals. The quite slender flowers do not make the show the tender tropical Fuchsias do, but the plants are hardy (at least the roots are hardy), and very pleasing in the garden, always attracting marked attention.

In 1939 May, the Cole Nursery sent us plants of their Fuchsia magellanica Riccartoni, Scarlet Beauty. These were planted close to the Wayside plants, and have developed identically, bearing similar flowers. We are unable to tell them apart without referring to the labels.

These Fuchsias are natives of Peru and Chile, and are said to be four-foot shrubs in favorable climates. We believe that in this section they are better treated as herbaceous perennials.

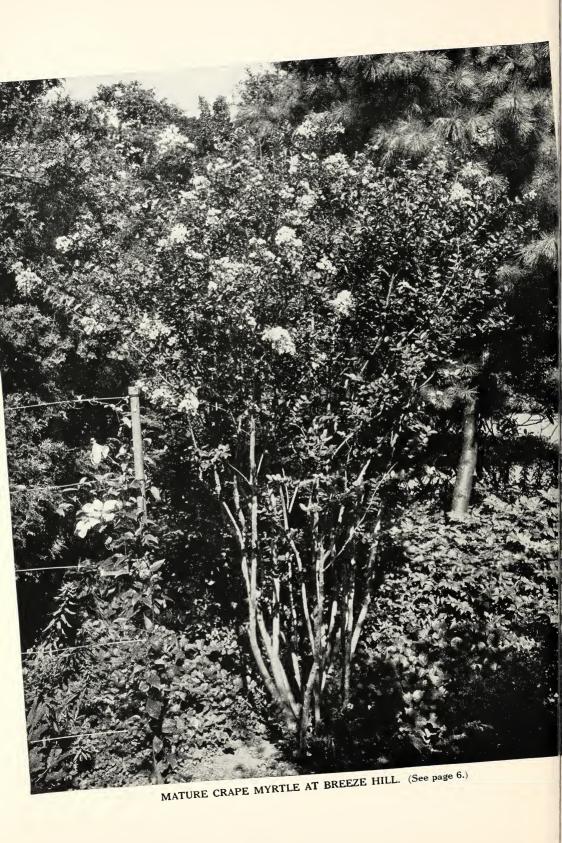
AZALEA MUCRONULATUM

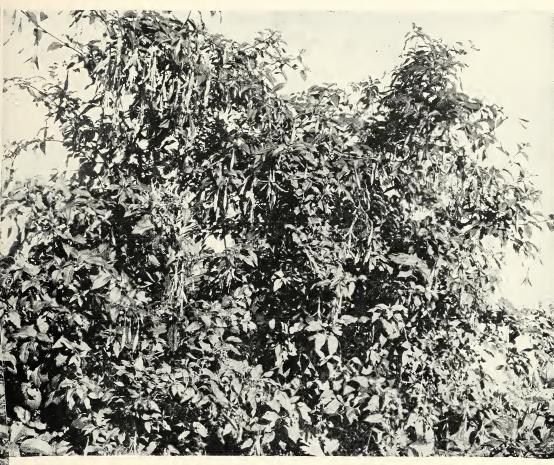
ALTHOUGH this Azalea (also called a Rhododendron) would not attract much attention if it bloomed in company with some of its gorgeous later-blooming relatives, it nevertheless is one of the most important and distinct Azaleas grown in northern gardens.

It is a native of northeastern China, and used to be known as a variety of the similar A. dauricum, Dahurian Azalea.

Mucronulatum is a deciduous plant growing to 6 feet at home and reaching about the same height here. Our plants, after a dozen years' sojourn at Breeze Hill, are now a good 5 feet and all have a respectable spread, although the natural growth seems to be fairly compact.

What makes this Azalea important is that the naked branches break into bloom in late March or early April before there is any sign of foliage on the plant. Against





FUCHSIA MAGELLANICA. (See page 7.)

the bare branches the flowers have an almost ethereal delicacy and beauty. The color varies from pale rose in some plants to rosy purple on others, with an occasional showing of a clear pink, not blue enough to lose the fresh spring elegance of the flowers. A crinkly crape-like texture of the petals adds greatly to the flower's daintiness. The opening trumpets are about 2 inches across the mouth, but they flatten out considerably before dropping. Ten pale rose fila-

ments, tipped with silvery anthers and deep rose-colored pistils, add character to the flowers which appear in close clusters of 4 to 6, at the ends of 3 to 6-inch stems.

Blooming when the only other color in the shrubbery is that of the Forsythia, this Azalea contrasts almost ideally with the clear yellow of the Golden Bell. A picture of this Azalea was printed on the back cover of the December (1940) Breeze Hill News.

TWO FRAGRANT VIBURNUMS

NE might think that every dealer in shrubs and every home-owner who gardens would know all about the two fragrant Viburnums, Carlesi and Burkwoodi, but they don't, and that is why Breeze Hill is calling attention to their desirability.

Viburnum Carlesi is a bushy shrub, rarely over 5 feet tall, and is well clothed with ovate dull green foliage nearly 4 inches long. It is a good-looking shrub at all times, but really "pays its way" when the flowers appear. These are white, with pink reverses, the pink spilling over on the face edges, and are closely packed in lopsided snowballs which the botanists describe as dense hemispherical cymes. They have an unforgettable, permeating clove fragrance which should assure them a place in every garden. Bloom here arrives the last of April, being usually in full beauty on May day. This Viburnum comes from Korea.

The second of these, Viburnum Burkwoodi, is an English hybrid of V. Carlesi and V. utile, and will probably prove at least partially evergreen where winters are not too severe. It was originated in 1924, and was named for the English hybridizer. (See picture, page 12.)

Growth at Breeze Hill has been about the same as V. Carlesi or even better, and it has bloomed with its deciduous parent the last of April.

Flowers are in slightly larger heads of somewhat smaller blooms than Carlesi. The heads are not quite so rounded as those of Carlesi, but are also made up of 5 or 6 umbels of tiny white flowers only 3% inch across. The white is not as soft as that of Carlesi, and has a slight pinkish tinge on some, but not all, of the petals. The tubes are white instead of pink as in Carlesi, and are shorter, being only 1% inch long. The anthers are pale yellow and push out of the tube when they are ready to burst, spoiling somewhat the beauty of the flower.

The flowers are very fragrant, somewhat different from the strong clove scent of Carlesi. They are best enjoyed on the bush, as the perfume is so strong that it may be found obnoxious to some in a closed room. Yet it is a refined and agreeable fragrance, seeming to fit the shapely plant that produces the blooms.

Both shrubs are admirable additions to our garden resources. They are rounded, self-contained, and fit in many places. Neither is a bad "doer," or difficult to propagate. (See also V. setigerum on pages 2 and 14.)

DAPHNE GENKWA

THIS Asian item is one of the precocious plants which burst into bloom before foliage appears, seemingly without regard to spring.

The plant is a stout, branchy little shrub which ultimately reaches 3 feet in height, and is well covered in early May with tiny lilac-colored flowers. These are four petaled and $\frac{9}{16}$ inch across with lilac edges, lightening down the petals until at the base they are almost white. Tiny anthers fill the little throats of slender lilac tubes. Unlike most of the Daphnes, this one has very little fragrance.

The very short-stemmed flowers appear in clusters of 3 or 4 around the upper 5 or 6 inches of each of last year's branches. These clusters of bloom form a spike-like inflorescence 1½ inches or more through.

The bud color is a bluish violet, and these, together with the pale lilac of the open flowers, present a dainty picture.

Opposite leaves to 2 inches long appear soon after the flowers, which are followed by white fruit.

Daphne Genkwa is a native of China and Korea, and has



VIBURNUM BURKWOODI AT BREEZE HILL. (See page 10.)

long been a cultivated plant in Japan, from where it was brought West. Plants prefer a light soil and seem to do best in a mixture of loam, peat, sand and well-rotted manure.

DAPHNE MEZEREUM

This strange little shrub is stiff in appearance and with its heavy wood looks more like a miniature pear tree than a shrub.

Although we often read of wild plants of this Daphne on hillside clearings in New York, it is a native of Eastern Europe and Western Asia where it is said to grow 4 feet tall. The American wild plants are no doubt escapes from old-time plantings somewhere in the neighborhood.

From several plants set out during the past dozen years we have only two left, one of the type and one alba. The former plant is now 3 feet tall and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet through and is pleasingly shapely. The white one planted in the spring of 1939 is 2 feet tall and has the same pleasing little tree form.

The flowers are slender tubes ending in four petals which form a shallow cup when first open but eventually the petals flatten, standing at right angles to the tube, at which time the flower is \(\frac{1}{4} \) inch across.

The flowers are clustered around 4 or 5 inches of the terminals of each branch. Their color is a soft lilac-purple, not at all spectacular but pleasing in mass and are delightfully fragrant. The alba one is not pure white, the tubes being yellowish, a sort of old ivory, and the face of the petals is creamy white. They are also very fragrant.

The bark of the dark-flowered plant is nearly black, while that of the white one is gray.

Scarlet fruit is said to follow flowers of the type and yellow fruit of the alba, but if fruit formed for us it fell off before there was a chance to see it.

ALYSSUM SAXATILE FLORE-PLENO

In checking through this spring's catalogues we find that this plant is not as common as was supposed.

Instead of the long straggling stems of the ordinary A. saxatile, this is a variation from A. saxatile compactum, and is easily kept in place. The deep yellow flowers are quite double, some 36 inch across, and look like little roses. Flowers develop in small heads, 4 to 6 of which are held on 4 to 6-inch stems.

This Alyssum makes a splendid display of yellow in April and May, and seems to be happy in ordinary soil.

VIBURNUM SETIGERUM (V. Theiferum)

BEGINNING in 1926 with what we then called Viburnum theiferum (tea-leaved) from the Arnold Arboretum, we now depend on the fine plant which came ten years later from the Le-Mac Nursery.

The plant is now 6 feet tall and last fall carried a generous crop of colorful berries which really looked good enough to eat. Its fruit is an elongated berry—or drupe, if you please—3/8 inch long and 1/4 inch through, of bright orange-scarlet. These are borne in short-stemmed, compact clusters, each carrying about fifty berries.

The foliage, $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 inches long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches wide, is dark green above, lighter and practically smooth underneath. The unimportant white flowers are in small cymes, the plant's value lying in its splendid tea-like foliage and its heavy crop of spectacular fruit. Our plant is in ordinary soil in a shady place and seems to be perfectly happy. Mature plants may be expected to reach a height of 10 feet, and would probably be better in less shade than one specimen endures. (See picture on page 2.)

AETHIONEMA, WARLEY ROSE

THIS splendid Stone-cress is one of the best of the family, and is an ideal rock-garden or dry-wall subject.

In the Breeze Hill rock-garden the little plant grows about 6 inches tall and as much in diameter, reminding one of a miniature plant of Daphne Cneorum.

The flowers are 3/4-inch globular heads of tiny, rose-colored flat flowers of 5 petals, having light centers and light veinings. There is a faint grass-like scent. Bloom appears in May and lasts into June.

The plants have foliage all the way up the bloom stems, and are good to look at when out of bloom. In checking over a second-year plant one day we counted 40 bloomheads completely hiding their 4-inch bloom stems.

This pleasing plant is dependably hardy.

ANDROSACE PRIMULOIDES

THIS Himalayan plant appears to like the Breeze Hill rock-garden, walking around in it at its own pleasure.

Plants start out as 3-inch mats of gray-green foliage, covered with silvery hairs. These mats are composed of 15 to 20 leaves 13/4 inches long. When things seem to be going good, 6 to 8 red runners jut out in all directions, rooting where the tips come to earth, where new plants are formed. The runners seem to limit their length to 6 inches, so that the original plant is soon the center of a perfect circle of similar mats.

Flowers are ½ inch across, made up of 6 pale pink petals surrounding a tiny orange-red eye. This bloom is in 1½-inch clusters on 4 to 5-inch woolly scapes.

The plants are attractive, and the flowers are dainty.

ANDROSACE SARMENTOSA

Another of these stoloniferous Rock Jasmines is Androsace sarmentosa, also from the Himalayas.

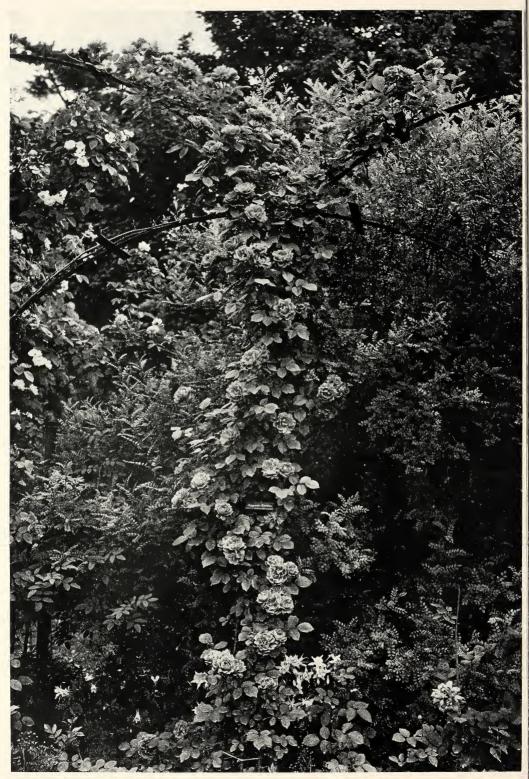
The plant-habit is much the same as A. primuloides, and this subject has lilac-pink flowers with a yellowish eye. Flower clusters are smaller than those of A. primuloides, and the scapes are shorter.

Both want light soil which is never allowed to dry out.

EDRIANTHUS DALMATICUS

BOTANISTS have changed this to E. tenuifolius, but catalogues still use the above name.

It is an interesting Bellflower. Plants grow about 6 inches in diameter and will each put up at least half a dozen 8-inch stems carrying 2-inch heads of violet bells. The bells average 3/4 inch deep and as much across the mouth. A large white pistil ornaments each bell. Our best bloom has been in early June. Though beautiful to look at, you'd better keep them away from your nose! From Southeastern Europe; thrives in ordinary soil in full sun.



ROSE, AUGUSTE KORDES AT BREEZE HILL. (See page 4.)